

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
Akihiro GOTO et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Filed: July 24, 2006 ) Examiner:  
For: DESIGN SUPPORT APPARATUS ) Confirmation No.: Unassigned  
FOR SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES ) )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application, it is requested that  
this application be amended as set forth herein.